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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q85876

Koji MASAKI, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/522,381

Group Art Unit: 1711

Confirmation No.: 7991

Examiner: Olga Asinovsky

Filed: January 26, 2005

For: RUBBER COMPOSITION AND PNEUMATIC TIRE USING THE SAME IN TREAD

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated September 11, 2006, please consider the remarks as submitted herewith on the accompanying pages.

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are all the claims pending in the application.

Referring to page 2 of the Office Action, Claims 1-9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,221,714 to Parker ("Parker") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,946,887 to Takino et al. ("Takino"). Applicants respectfully traverse for the following reasons.

Independent Claim 1 is directed to a rubber composition comprising a rubber component formed by compounding a styrene-butadiene copolymer (A) polymerized with a lithium based